

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNCTAD, EGEN, EFIN
SUBJECT: UNCTAD - SECRETARIAT VIEWS ON FORTHCOMING EXPERTS
MEETINGS AND INTERDEPENDENCE ISSUE

1. SUMMARY: IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH UNCTAD SECRETARIAT AND OTHER GROUP B REPS, MISSION OBTAINED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON FORTHCOMING EXPERTS' MEETINGS ON INFLATION AND FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT. WE ALSO LEARNED LATEST SECRETARIAT THINKING ON THE INTERDEPENDENCE ISSUE AND HOW IT HOPES THIS ISSUE WILL BE HANDLED AT THE 18TH TDB IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER. END SUMMARY.

2. EXPERTS MEETING ON INFLATION - JULY 24-AUGUST 4.
ALTHOUGH THIS MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR TWO WEEKS TO ENABLE EXPERTS TO PREPARE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UNGA, SECRETARIAT THINKS THE MEETING COULD BE SHORTENED TO EIGHT DAYS OR SO IF EXPERTS ARE PREPARED TO START WORK "FULL BLAST" THE FIRST WEEK. SECRETARIAT HAS NOT YET RECEIVED REPLIES FROM GOVERNMENTS WHICH WERE INVITED TO SEND HIGH-LEVEL EXPERTS. WHEN GROUP B COMPLAINED THAT DOCUMENTATION FOR THIS MEETING IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, SECRETARIAT RESPONDED THAT
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THIS SHOULD NOT MATTER, SINCE EXPERTS WILL BE ASKED TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN RECOMMENDATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNGA RESOLUTION 32/175.

3. FINANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT - AUGUST 7-11. SINCE EXPERTS ATTENDING THIS MEETING WILL BE TREATED AS UNCTAD CONSULTANTS, THEIR TRAVEL AND PER DIEM WILL BE FINANCED BY

THE SECRETARIAT. SECRETARIAT SOURCE INDICATED THAT UNCTAD WILL TAKE A PASSIVE ROLE IN THIS MEETING, WHICH HAD BEEN REQUESTED IN UNGA RESOLUTION 32/177. WHILE UNCTAD IS PREPARING SOME DOCUMENTATION, THE SECRETARIAT SEES ITS ROLE AS CHIEFLY GATHERING DOCUMENTS FROM OTHER SOURCES (SUCH AS THE IMF/IBRD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE) FOR THE EXPERTS' USE AND PREPARING A REPORT ON THE MEETING FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO SUBMIT TO THE UNGA. SECRETARIAT SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED THAT WHILE THE NEW SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN THE PRINCIPAL SPONSOR BEHIND UNGA RESOLUTION 32/177 AS A MEANS OF FINDING WAYS TO STIMULATE MORE PRIVATE INVESTMENT FLOWS TO THE LDCS, SRI LANKAN GENEVA REPS HAVE THUS FAR NOT DEMONSTRATED MUCH INTEREST IN THE MEETING.

4. INTERDEPENDENCE - SECRETARIAT SOURCE IN FINANCIAL DIVISION SAID IT IS HOPED THAT AUGUST/SEPTEMBER TDB WILL SIMPLY ENDORSE UNCTAD'S ONGOING WORK ON INTERDEPENDENCE AND ENABLE THAT WORK TO CONTINUE. SOURCE SAID THAT THE SECRETARIAT HOPES TO USE ITS WORK ON INTERDEPENDENCE AS CHIEFLY A TOOL FOR ANALYSIS IN IDENTIFYING WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPING PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO THEM. WHEN MISSION OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT THIS FUNCTION APPEARED TO OVERLAP WITH THAT OF THE UN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (COW) IN NEW YORK, SOURCE INDICATED THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IS NOT VERY CON-

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CERNED ABOUT THE COW SINCE IT DOUBTS THAT IT WILL DEVELOP INTO AN EFFECTIVE BODY. VANDEN HEUVEL

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